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# ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
AND  
SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1938.



BROMSGROVE  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE  
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

FOR THE YEAR

1938.

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**PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY :**

(a) A. B. FOLLOWS, M.D., D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,

*Medical Officer of Health.*      *Part-time.*

Assistant M.O.H.

Assistant School M.O.

Tuberculosis Officer.

Inspector of Midwives

Health Visitors & Nurses

Under the direction  
of, and paid by, the  
County Council.

(b) H. HOLDEN, M.S.I.A., C.R.San.I.,

Senior Sanitary Inspector (also Meat and Food Inspector);

E. STANSFIELD, A.R.San.I.

W. CARTER (Clerk).

**DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICERS :—**

A. J. RAE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

M. I. DICK, M.B., Ch.B. (Rednal and Barnet Green).

**PUBLIC VACCINATORS :—**

A. J. RAE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

M. I. DICK, M.B., Ch.B.



**TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BROMSGROVE  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

BROMSGROVE,

AUGUST, 1939.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the health of the Bromsgrove Urban District for the year 1938.

A change of staff took place early in the year. The duties of Sanitary Inspector and Building Surveyor had been performed by one official since the amalgamation of the Bromsgrove and North Bromsgrove Urban Districts in 1933. It was later felt that the sanitary work demanded a whole-time man at its head, and on January 1st the present Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Holden, commenced duties.

The year has been a busy one, and housing, more than any other branch of the work, has taken the attention of the staff. A Ministry of Health Housing Inquiry in August, which involved 187 houses, entailed much preparation in all the departments.

Perhaps the Health Week, held in January, 1938, deserves special mention, as it was rather a unique event, being the first to be instituted in the town. Held in connection with the National Health Campaign to promote a wider use of the Health Services, it was acclaimed a great success.

Before and after the crisis of September, all departments had to take their share in Air Raid Precautions, which interfered seriously with the work of Public Health, but more recently, with County assistance, the pressure has to some extent been relieved.

I wish to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee and the Council's officers for their valued co-operation during the year.

**SECTION A.**

**Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.**

Area—9248 acres.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population in 1938 was 23,540, compared with an estimate of 23,180 in 1937 and 22,830 in 1936.

Number of Inhabited Houses end of 1936—6378.

" " " end of 1937—6712.

" " " end of 1938—6902.

Rateable value 1st April, 1939—£124,644.

Sum represented by Penny Rate—£480.

Bromsgrove is essentially a market town and agricultural in outlook. The District covers a large area and extends in the North as far as the Birmingham boundary. With the exception of the old town, the Bromsgrove district is composed of small aggregations of population, a large number of which are dependent on Birmingham for their livelihood.

Other occupations are :—

Building,  
Distributive trades,  
Engineering,  
Boot and shoe making,  
Button making,  
Lint making,  
Wholesale clothing.

In July, 1938, the total insured population living in the Bromsgrove area was 7600, made up as follows :—

	PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED.			
	as at 4.7.38.	as at 12.12.38.		
	Wholly.	Short time workers.	Wholly.	Short time workers.
MEN : 5100 ...	.4	.4	.24	.15
WOMEN : 1200 ...	.2	.8	.2	.46
BOYS AND				
GIRLS : 1300 ...	.5	.25	.1	.15

2900 of these were working in Birmingham.

The Wholly Unemployed Register fluctuated within narrow limits throughout the year, but always downwards, so that there was a total decrease of about 80 at the end of the year. The "Temporarily Stopped" File varied considerably between 51 and 400. The total T.S. File was only 51 on the 28th November, but on the 2nd January, 1939, it was 338; the big increase was due chiefly to inactivity in the Building trade on account of bad weather conditions.

### Vital Statistics.

Live Births :	Total.	M.	F.	Birth-rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population 1938      1937      1936 17.8      16.3      16.9
Legitimate ...	404	203	196	
Illegitimate ...	14	9	5	
Total ...	378	191	187	
				Eng. & Wales : 15.1

Still Births :	Total.	M.	F.	Still Birth-rate per 1000 total (live and still) births : 1938      1937      1936      1935 27.9      33.2      24.0      10.6
Legitimate ...	12	9	3	
Illegitimate ...	—	—	—	
Total ...	12	9	3	

Still Birth-rate per 1000 population : 0.51.  
"      "      "      "      E. & W. : 0.60.

Deaths :	Total.	M.	F.	Death-rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population :
	295	154	141	1938 1937 1936 E. and Wales :
				12.5 11.5 11.43 11.6.

Comparability factor—0.96. Adjusted Death-rate—12.0.

#### Deaths from Puerperal Causes :—

Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	0	Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births :
Other Puerperal causes	...	0	—	
Total	...	...	0	
				1938 1937 1936 1935
				0.0. 2.5 10.6 2.7
				E. and Wales : 2.97

#### Deaths of Infants under 1 year :

	Total.	M.	F.	
Legitimate	... 23	16	7	
Illegitimate	... 2	1	1	
Total	... 25	17	8	

#### Death-rate of Infants under one year of age :—

	1938.	1937.	1936.	E. & W.
All infants per 1000 live births	.... 59.8	50.2	54.6	53
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	.... 56.9	52.2	53.0	
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	.... 166.7	—	125.0	

# VITAL STATISTICS OF DISTRICT FOR 1938 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.	BIRTHS (NETT).	DEATHS.	Transferable						Nett.					
			Number.	Rate.	Total number registered in District.	Non-residents registered in District.	Residents not registered in District.	Rate per 1000 Births	Rate per 1000 Deaths	Standardised rate for comparison with England & Wales.	Rate for comparison with Scotland.	Natural increase over deaths.	Excess of births over deaths.	
1938	23,540		Live—418	17.76	15.1	387	121	29	59.81	53	295	12.5	12.0	11.6
			Still—12	0.51	0.60									123
			Total—430	18.27	15.7									
1937	23,180		L.—378	16.3	14.9					19	50.2	58.0	267	11.5
			S.—13	0.56	0.39									
			T.—391	16.86	16.42									
1936	22,830		L.—366	16.03	14.8					20	54.6	59.0	261	10.9
			S.—9	0.39	0.27									
			T.—375	16.42	17.17									
1935	22,360		L.—373	16.9	14.7					18	48	57	270	11.4
			S.—6	0.27	0.62									
			T.—379	17.17	15.32									
1934	21,840		L.—390	13.8	14.8					24	80	59	279	12.3
			S.—16	0.73	1.45									
			T.—316	14.53										
1933	21,582		L.—316	14.8	14.4					12	38	64	250	11.7
			S.—12	0.56	1.53									
			T.—328	15.36										
														66

The figures for 1938 are generally satisfactory. The Birth-rate of 17.8 is the highest recorded in the District since the amalgamation of Districts in 1933, and the Infantile and General Death-rates, although slightly raised on last year's figures, do not call for special comment.

The number of outward transferable deaths always exceeds the inward transfers on account of deaths occurring at the Public Assistance Hospital and Barnsley Hall Mental Hospital.

I am glad to report that no maternal deaths occurred in the District during the year.

The following table gives the deaths at the various age periods of residents within or without the District :—

	M.	F.	T.
Under 1 year ... ...	15	6	21
1 to 5 years ... ...	4	3	7
5 „ 15 „ ... ...	2	1	3
15 „ 25 „ ... ...	8	9	17
25 „ 45 „ ... ...	14	25	39
45 „ 65 „ ... ...	46	44	90
Over 65 „ ... ...	104	106	210
	193	194	387

### Infant Mortality.

Under 1 year (all infants per 1000 live births). The rates since 1933 are as follows :—

1933 ...	38	deaths per 1000 births.
1934 ...	80	„ „ „ „
1935 ...	48	„ „ „ „
1936 ...	54.6	„ „ „ „
1937 ...	50.2	„ „ „ „
1938 ...	59.8	„ „ „ „

Of the 25 deaths recorded, 18 cases were premature or suffering from some congenital defect.

The Infant Mortality Rate this time is slightly above the England and Wales figure (53.0), which has dropped considerably this year.

**CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE BROMSGROVE URBAN DISTRICT, 1938.**

Causes of Death.	Males.	Females.	Mortality Rate.	Mortality Rate. England & Wales.
Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fever	0	0	0.00	0.00
Measles ... ... ...	0	0	0.00	0.04
Scarlet Fever ... ... ...	0	0	0.00	0.01
Whooping Cough ... ... ...	0	0	0.00	0.03
Diphtheria ... ... ...	3	0	0.13	0.07
Influenza ... ... ...	6	6	0.51	0.11
Encephalitis lethargica ...	2	1	0.13	
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	0	1	0.04	
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system ... ... ...	5	6	0.47	
Other Tuberculosis ... ... ...	0	0	0.00	
Syphilis ... ... ...	0	0	0.00	
G.P.I., Tabes, etc. ... ... ...	0	0	0.00	
Cancer ... ... ...	19	26	1.91	
Diabetes ... ... ...	1	4	0.21	
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc. ...	11	15	1.11	
Heart Disease ... ... ...	37	28	2.76	
Aneurysm ... ... ...	0	0	0.00	
Other Circulatory Diseases ...	11	10	0.89	
Bronchitis ... ... ...	7	6	0.55	
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	10	10	0.85	
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	2	1	0.13	
Peptic Ulcer ... ... ...	0	1	0.04	
Diarrhoea, under 2 years ...	1	0	0.04	
Diarrhoea, 2 years and over ...	0	0	0.00	
Appendicitis ... ... ...	1	0	0.04	
Cirrhosis of Liver ... ... ...	0	0	0.00	
Other Liver Diseases ... ... ...	0	2	0.09	
Other Digestive Diseases ...	1	1	0.09	
Acute & Chronic Nephritis ...	2	1	0.13	
Puerperal Sepsis ... ... ...	0	0	0.00	
Other Puerperal Diseases ...	0	0	0.00	
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, etc. ... ... ...	12	6	0.77	
Senility ... ... ...	5	5	0.43	
Suicide ... ... ...	2	0	0.09	
Other Violence ... ... ...	6	3	0.34	
Other Defined Diseases ...	10	8	0.77	
Ill-defined or not known ...	0	0	0.00	
All Causes ... ...	154	141	12.52	

## **Heart Disease and Cancer.**

The figures for heart disease and cancer are rather high, the cancer figure being the highest for at least six years. Early diagnosis and avoidance of delay in obtaining treatment are all-important.

A Committee of the British Empire Cancer Campaign have recently appointed a panel of lecturers from the local practitioners in the District, who will lecture on this disease when called upon.

## **SECTION B.**

### **GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.**

**Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.** See page 1.

#### **Laboratory Facilities.**

Examination of clinical material (swabs, sputa, blood, etc.), water, milk and foodstuffs is done by the County Analyst, Shirehall, Worcester, at the expense of the County Council.

#### **Ambulance Facilities.**

For Infectious Cases, Ambulance provided by Joint Hospital Board.

For Non-Infectious, Accident and Maternity cases, a motor ambulance maintained and run by the Local Branch of the Red Cross.

The Service in the area is adequate and efficient.

#### **Nursing in the Home.**

The Bromsgrove and District Nursing Association provide 2 district midwives for Catshill and part of Lickey, 1 Queen's Nurse and 1 district midwife for Rubery, 2 Queen's Nurses and 2 district midwives for Bromsgrove, and 1 district midwife for Barnt Green and Cofton. Two cars have been provided.

There is no Nursing provided for Infectious cases by the County Council or the Local Authority.

## Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Particulars of these are tabulated below :—

<i>Clinic.</i>	<i>Situation.</i>	<i>Accommodation.</i>	<i>Provided by</i>	<i>Times of Holding</i>
Bromsgrove Infant Welfare Centre.	Drill Hall	1 large and 2 small rooms.	County Council.	Wednesday 2.0 p.m.
Catshill Infant Welfare Centre.	Baptist Chapel.	1 large and 1 small room.	County Council.	Friday, 2.0 p.m.
Rubery Infant Welfare Centre.	St. Chad's Church Hall.	1 large and 2 small rooms.	County Council.	Thursday, 2.0 p.m.
Bromsgrove Ante-Natal Clinic.	Drill Hall.	2 small rooms.	County Council.	2nd and 4th Friday in month. 2.0 p.m.
School Clinic, Bromsgrove.	Drill Hall.	2 small rooms.	County Council.	Wednesday, 10.0 a.m.
Dental Clinic.	Drill Hall.	1 large and 2 small rooms.	County Council.	As arranged.
Tuberculosis.	Church Street, Broinsgrov.	2 rooms.	County Council.	Tuesday, 2.30 p.m.
Rubery Ante-Natal Clinic.	St. Chad's Church Hall.	1 large and 2 small rooms.	County Council.	1st and 3rd Thursday in month, 10.0 a.m.
Diphtheria Immunization.	Bromsgrove Infant Welfare Centre.		County Council.	2nd and 4th Wednesdays in month, 11.0 a.m.

## Birth Control.

Arrangements are made with the County Council by which suitable cases are referred to the Birmingham Welfare Centre for advice.

## **Infant Welfare Centres.**

The three Infant Welfare Centres run by the County Council are well supported and are very popular. An Assistant County Medical Officer is in charge, and is assisted by a Health Visitor and a staff of voluntary workers.

The attendances during 1938 were as follows :—

### BROMSGROVE :

Under 1 year	1862
Over 1 year	2073
Total	3935
Average attendance	77

### CATSHILL :

Under 1 year	1786
Over 1 year	1032
Total	2818
Average attendance	54

### RUBERY :

Under 1 year	1263
Over 1 year	910
Total	2173
Average attendance	42

## **Ante-natal Clinics.**

### BROMSGROVE :

218 visits were made, and an average attendance of 11.

### RUBERY :

Opened 2nd February, 1939.

## Hospitals (Public and Voluntary).

The following Hospitals are available to Bromsgrove residents :—

HOSPITAL.	NAME.	SITUATED.	BY WHOM PROVIDED.
General.	Bromsgrove Cottage Hospital.	Bromsgrove.	Voluntary.
Infectious Disease.	Bromsgrove, Droitwich & Redditch Joint Hospital.	Hill Top, Bromsgrove.	Under joint control.
Tuberculosis.	Ditto and Knightwick.	Ditto and Knightwick.	County Council.
Smallpox.	W.C.C. Smallpox Hospital.	Worcester.	W.C.C.
Maternity.	Mary Stevens. Lucy Baldwin.	Stourbridge. Stourport.	W.C.C. W.C.C.
Children.	Children's Hospital.	Birmingham.	By arrangement with County Council.
Tonsils and Adenoids.	Bromsgrove Cottage Hospital.	Bromsgrove.	By arrangement with County Council.
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia.	General Hospital. Royal Infirmary.	Birmingham. Worcester.	By arrangement with County Council.
Institution, General.	Public Assistance Institution.	Bromsgrove.	W.C.C.
Mental.	Barnsley Hall.	Bromsgrove.	W.C.C.

## **Infectious Diseases Hospital.**

The Joint Isolation Hospital for the five County Districts of Bromsgrove Urban and Rural, Redditch Urban, and Droitwich Borough and Rural is situated at Hill Top, Bromsgrove, and is under the supervision of Dr. B. Gaunt, who is a part-time officer. Close liaison exists between the Hospital and the District Authorities.

The shortage of Institutional accommodation has again been felt during 1938, and recently infectious cases have had to be transferred to other hospitals. I am glad to report that work has now commenced on the extensions.

## **SECTION C.**

### **SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.**

#### **Water.**

The main water supply is from the boreholes of the East Worcestershire Waterworks Company, situated at Burcot and Washinglestocks.

At BURCOT, three of the four wells are in use. No. 1 borehole was widened and deepened in 1938, so that it is now 630 feet deep, being 29 inches wide for the first 285 feet and 23 inches wide for the remainder of its depth.

No 3 borehole is 600 feet x 20 inches.

No. 4 borehole deepened in 1939 to 593 feet is 24 inches wide.

At WASHINGSTOCKS, there are two boreholes :

No. 1 borehole, 600 feet x 20 inches.

No. 2 borehole, 288 feet x 20 inches.

During 1938 samples were taken monthly for chemical and bacteriological analysis, and the results were satisfactory on each occasion. In Tables I and II are tabulated the results of the chemical and bacteriological examinations of samples submitted during 1938.

TABLE I.  
CHEMICAL REPORTS ON THE PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY, 1938.  
(Results in parts per 100,000.)

Date of Sampling.	Ammonia.		Total Solids.	Chlorine.	Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27°C.	Nitrates.	Nitrites.	Total Hardness.	Toxic Metals.
	Ammoniacal	Albuminoid							
8th Mar.	0.0008	0.0006	27	3	0.006	Trace	None	26	None
8th Mar.	0.002	0.0006	30	3.4	None	0.6	None	30	None
6th April	0.0008	0.0008	25	2.9	0.013	Trace	None	18	None
6th April	0.0008	0.0008	31	3.5	0.013	0.4	None	21	None
4th May	0.001	0.0008	31	3.4	0.013	0.3	None	21	None
11th June	0.002	0.0008	24	2.8	0.006	Trace	None	14	None
11th June	0.0008	0.0008	32	3.5	0.006	Trace	None	19	None
12th Oct.	0.002	0.0008	28	2.9	None	Trace	None	17	None
7th Nov.	0.0006	0.0006	19	2.5	None	Trace	None	12	None
7th Nov.	0.002	0.002	27	2.7	0.006	Trace	None	17	None
12th Dec.	0.002	0.001	20	2.6	None	Trace	None	12	None
12th Dec.	0.003	0.001	27	2.8	None	Trace	None	16	None

TABLE II.  
BACTERIOLOGICAL REPORTS ON THE PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY, 1938.

Date of Sampling.	Visible Colonies per m.l.			B. Coli	Cl. Welchii	Streptococci.
	Agar plates at 37° C. (2 days).	Agar plates at 22° C. (3 days).	not found in (m.l.).	not found in (m.l.).	not found in (m.l.).	
8th March	Nil	6	100	250	250	Not detected.
8th March	4	20	100	250	250	" "
6th April	Nil	4	100	250	250	" "
6th April	Nil	30	100	250	250	" "
4th May	2	20	100	250	250	" "
11th June	2	20	100	250	250	" "
11th June	2	10	100	250	250	" "
12th October	10	50	100	250	250	" "
7th November	4	20	100	250	250	" "
7th November	10	10	100	250	250	" "
12th December	4	50	100	250	250	" "
12th December	6	30	100	250	250	" "

There has been no shortage in the mains supply. The following is a list of the mains extensions carried out during 1938 :—

412 yards	4"	main, off Gunner Lane, Rubery.
6	" 3"	" " "
95	" 4"	" " "
498	" 3"	" Whetty Lane, Rubery.
3852	" 9"	" Burcot Lane.
11	" 3"	" " "
17	" 8"	" " "
349	" 3"	Perryfield Road, Orchard Farm Estate.
1340	" 3" & 4" ..	Orchard Farm Estate.
109	" 3"	Upland Road, Lowes Hill Estate.
280	" 3"	Bewell Head, Stourbridge Road.
137	" 3" & 4" ..	Providence Road and Santridge Road.
70	" 3"	Off Santridge Road, Bewell Head.
36	" 3"	Victoria Road.
56	" 3"	Alcester Road (Service Road).
74	" 3"	Off Alcester Road.
137	" 3"	Marlbrook Lane.
23	" 3"	Staple Hill.

The total storage capacity of the service reservoirs is 1,250,000 gallons, made up as follows :—

Burcot reservoir	..	300,000 gallons.
Chadwich reservoir	..	500,000 ..
Lickey (old) reservoir	..	50,000 ..
Lickey (new) reservoir	..	400,000 ..

The pumps at the waterworks have a capacity for raising 2,000,000 gallons per day. The output of water supplied to the District is recorded by meter installed at the waterworks. The quantities delivered during the 12 months show a daily average in the District as follows :—

Broinsgrove	410,000	gallons per day.
Chadwich (Rubery)	300,000	" " "
Lickey	90,000	" " "

There is always a potential shortage of water in the outlying districts of Bournheath, Worms Ash and Little Heath, where the residents are dependent entirely on well water.

Seventy-two houses situated near the main supply have been connected up and their wells, which yielded water unfit for drinking purposes, have been abandoned.

### Drainage and Sewerage.

During the year the following sewer extensions were carried out :—

West Road, 148 lin. yds. 6" sewer.

Marlbrook Lane, 100 lin. yds. 9" sewer.

300 lin. yds. 6" sewer.

Towards the end of the year tenders were invited for subsidiary sewers in the following roads:—

School Lane,  
Little Heath Lane,  
Alcester Road,  
Staple Hill,  
Staple Flat,  
Barley Mow Lane.

Work was not commenced on these sewers during 1938.

Fifty-one existing houses were provided with new drainage to the sewer and the cesspools which formerly served them were abolished.

### Rivers and Streams.

The Spadesbourne Brook, which runs through the town, has been cleaned out periodically throughout the year.

### Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

#### Closet Accommodation.

#### Shops.

Particulars of work done in connection with the above will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's report.

### Public Cleansing.

Refuse collection and disposal is supervised by the Surveyor. The local authority do not undertake the emptying of cesspools.

Refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping, and several complaints were received regarding the prevalence of crickets on the tip at Catshill. This tip is no longer in use, so there is no question of nuisance.

### Camping Sites.

No licenses were issued during the year under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

### Smoke Abatement.

Observations were taken of the chimneys of a brickworks. The occupier was interviewed regarding the emission of smoke, but it was not found necessary to take statutory action.

### Swimming Baths and Pools.

Samples of water were taken from the Council's open-air swimming bath and from the brook-courses serving the bath during the year. The County Analyst certified the first sample taken from the bath as follows:—

"In the absence of the Coli-aerogenes group the sample may be passed for swimming water. At the same time, the total number of bacteria is high, and this cannot be considered to be a good water of its class."

The sample taken from the brook-course had a very high bacteriological count and coliform organisms present to the extent of 16,000 per 100 millilitres.

A further sample taken in July was reported as follows:—

“The water contains fairly large numbers of organisms of excretal origin.

“I do not consider it fit for bathing.”

Chlorination of the water was carried out by adding “Chloros” from a watering-can, and a further sample taken after chlorination was reported as fit for bathing. Chlorination should be a continuous process and some control of the amount added should be available. During this year (1939) the Council decided to close the bath.

A swimming bath is a very necessary possession, and already the need for one has been keenly felt by school children in the town. I hope it will be found possible before very long to open a new bath, or, failing that, to recondition the old one, providing an up-to-date filtration and chlorination plant.

### Eradication of Bed Bugs.

During the year, ten Council houses and two privately-owned houses were found to be infested with bed bugs.

The Council houses were all semi-detached houses, and were dealt with by fumigation with hydrogen cyanide. The work was executed by a Fumigation Contractor. The other houses, in both cases, formed part of a row of houses, and were treated by spraying with “Zaldecide,” which treatment was repeated after a lapse of about a fortnight. The cost of the insecticide was in each case recovered from the owner of the property. Visits were made after disinfection to ascertain that the premises were free from vermin.

No slum clearance removals took place during the year, so that it was not necessary to take steps to disinfect furniture before removal to Council houses.

### Schools.

Drinking facilities were found to be not satisfactory at two schools, viz.: Watt Close and Crown Close, and drinking fountains were installed to avoid the use of cups used in common by the scholars.

Sanitary improvements were carried out at Linthurst and Catshill Junior Schools during the year.

## SECTION D. HOUSING.

The following are the figures for 1938:—

Houses erected by private enterprise ...	190
Houses erected by the local authority	0

Slum Clearance action in respect to the Clearance Areas mentioned in my last report was one of the chief concerns of the department.

A Ministry of Health Inquiry was held in August, involving 187 houses, which naturally entailed a large amount of preparation on the part of the Health staff. Soon after the results of the Inquiry were made known, work was commenced on the Perryfields Estate, although by the end of the year no houses had been actually completed.

### **Re-housing.**

The Perryfields Estate will rehouse tenants from the worst properties in the town, and will also, to some extent, solve the overcrowding problem.

### **Overcrowding.**

The majority of the overcrowding exists in unfit houses, and, as these are dealt with, much of it will be abated. The balance will be rehoused at Perryfields.

The fact that, practically without exception, the Council were successful in winning every case at the Inquiry, only revealed the bad state into which the houses in the town had drifted, and this first Slum Clearance effort must not, by any means, be considered a final one. Good housing must still be regarded as one of the most pressing needs in Bromsgrove to-day. There are also many working-class houses in the District which, though not totally unfit, have, nevertheless, serious defects which call for remedy. Every effort is being made in these cases to press on with the work of reconditioning.

### **I. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year:—**

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	250
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	935
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	81
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	457
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	15
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	239

<b>2.</b>	<b>Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices :—</b>	
	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	106
<b>3.</b>	<b>Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—</b>	
	(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
	(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	3
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
	(a) By owners	0
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0
	(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
	(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	2
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
	(a) By owners	1
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0
	(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
	(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	0
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	0
	(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
	(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	0
	(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	0
<b>4.</b>	<b>Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV.—Overcrowding :—</b>	
	(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	125
	(ii) Number of families dwelling therein .....	143
	(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein .....	908
	(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	0
	(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year .....	48
	(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases .....	335

## SECTION E.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

#### Milk Supply.

Some good work is being done in bringing farms and cowsheds up to a high standard of cleanliness and efficiency. Samples are being taken for chemical and bacteriological examination, and visits made to farms when adverse reports are received.

The nutritive value of milk cannot be over-emphasized. A perfectly balanced food containing body-building and protective elements, it is particularly valuable for children. The consumption of milk per head in this country averages 2/5ths of a pint daily, which I suggest is much too low, and an increase to a pint a day, or more than double the present consumption, is the figure at which we should aim.

The Milk in Schools Scheme, inaugurated in October, 1936, has been proved to have a beneficial effect upon the children, both mentally and physically, and I am glad to say that Bromsgrove children avail themselves of the facilities which are in operation locally.

It is of the utmost importance that milk, of all foods, should be safe to drink, for only then can the maximum benefit be enjoyed by the public. Milk is a natural culture medium for organisms of all descriptions, and is, therefore, a convenient vehicle for the spread of infection. Milk can be made safe in two ways:—

1. By producing a safe supply at the source. This should be the aim of all milk producers, and a Tuberculin Tested herd and milking under hygienic conditions goes a long way towards ensuring this. Tuberculin Tested Milk is the only milk that can be recommended for drinking in the raw state.
2. All other milk should be pasteurised or boiled.

Pasteurisation is satisfactory provided the plant is in good working order and that pasteurisation is actually being carried out; i.e., the retention of milk at a temperature of not less than 145° F. and not more than 150° F. for at least half-an-hour, and immediate cooling to a temperature of not more than 55° F.

If this is not done, "pasteurised" milk may be no better, or even worse, than ordinary milk; for this reason it is important that pasteurisation plants should be frequently inspected and controlled by the Sanitary Authority.

Boiled milk is quite safe, and the damage to the nutritive content is practically negligible. Boiling is a practice which I should recommend, especially where there are children and where Tuberculin Tested Milk is unattainable.

## Meat and other Foods.

Meat Inspection at slaughter-houses has been carried out very thoroughly during the year. Every endeavour is made to inspect all animals killed. If, owing to pressure of other work, it is not possible to inspect all animals notified, sheep are then not seen, as disease among sheep is not so prevalent as among cattle and pigs.

Details of the causes of condemnation of carcases, part carcases and offals will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's report.

### Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle, exclud- ing cows	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number inspected ....	543	68	14	2176	812
<i>All Diseases except Tuberculosis—</i>					
Whole carcases con- demned ...	0	0	1	1	4
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	29	7	0	2	17
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	5.34	10.29	7.14	0.14	2.59
<i>Tuberculosis only—</i>					
Whole carcases con- demned .....	1	0	0	0	0
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .....	38	9	0	0	44
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis .....	7.18	13.24	0	0	5.42

Inspections are made of butchers' shops which are receiving meat from outside Districts, food shops generally, and periodical visits are made to the wholesale and retail market.

## **Adulteration.**

In July the following resolution was received from the County Council, which is the Food and Drugs Authority :—

“ That a limited number of samples from each of the County areas (Boroughs, Urban Districts and Rural Districts, not being themselves Authorities under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928), be examined free of charge at the County Laboratory, provided that :

1. The samples are taken and submitted to the laboratory by an officer of the area concerned.
2. The annual number of such samples shall not exceed three per 1000 of the population in the case of Urban areas and two per 1000 in the case of Rural areas. Samples in excess of these to be charged at the usual rate of 7/6, charges to be on a quarterly basis.
3. The officer or officers nominated by each District to take such samples shall be for this purpose appointed sampling officers of the County Council under the above Act.

Any sampling under the above arrangement to be independent of and in addition to sampling which may be made in the areas by the regular Food and Drugs Inspectors of the County Council.”

The Senior Sanitary Inspector was appointed sampling officer for this Urban District.

## **Nutrition.**

A Health Week was held in the week commencing January 23rd. It was arranged by the Bromsgrove U.D.C. in conjunction with the County Council as part of the National Campaign to encourage a wider use of the Health Services. The following is a summary of the programme :—

Jan. 23rd. Health Sunday was observed in the Churches.

Jan. 24th. Health talks at the schools by Miss J. C. Butler.

Jan. 25th.

1. Lecture on the Control of Public Food Supplies by the Chief Sanitary Inspector.
2. Gymnastic display at the Bromsgrove Church of England School.
3. Lecture and cinematograph display at Watt Close School by Mr. R. N. Hines, the School Dentist.
4. Milk demonstration and Exhibition by the National Milk Publicity Council at the Bromsgrove Infant Welfare Centre.

Jan. 26th. Lecture and cinematograph display by the Medical Officer of Health at the County High School.

Jan. 27th. Cinematograph display of Health films at the Plaza Cinema, where approximately 1000 people, mostly children, attended, and films included :—

1. "The Health of a Nation."
2. "One Hundred Years."
3. The Nutrition film.
4. A Diphtheria Immunization film.
5. Films from the British Dental Board, the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis, and the Health and Cleanliness Council.

All meetings were well attended, and the week was acclaimed to be a very successful one.

## FACTORIES.

### Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories with mechanical power. ....	3	0	0
Factories without mechanical power ....	1	0	0
Other premises under the Act (other than out-workers' premises) ....	0	0	0
Total ...	4	0	0

### Defects found.

Particulars.	Number of defects.	
	Found.	Remedied
Want of cleanliness .... ...	1	1
Sanitary Conveniences defective ...	1	1
Total ...	2	2

## SECTION F.

### PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

#### Diphtheria.

This disease was unusually prevalent; 104 cases were notified, and all save two were treated in the Isolation Hospital. There was only one death. The peak of the epidemic occurred at the end of 1937 and the beginning of 1938, and the majority of the cases occurring in 1938 were notified during the first half of the year, since when there has been a decline. The following table shows the incidence of the disease during 1938:—

January ....	15 cases.	July ....	.... 5 cases.
February ....	10 ..	August ....	.... 1 ..
March ....	13 ..	September ....	.... 2 ..
April ....	5 ..	October ....	.... 10 ..
May ....	13 ..	November ....	.... 11 ..
June ....	14 ..	December ....	.... 5 ..

Total: 104 cases.

The age incidence shows that the disease was not in this epidemic, as is often the case, confined to children:

Cases arising under 5 years	....	17 cases.
5 to 10 ..	....	26 ..
10 .. 15 ..	....	24 ..
15 .. 25 ..	....	22 ..
Over 25 ..	....	15 ..

Total .... 104 cases.

The average length of stay in hospital was from seven to eight weeks, which suggests that the disease was of average severity, although it is probable that a proportion of the notified cases were "carriers" of the disease.

Immunization for the prevention of diphtheria has made some progress during the year. The scheme covers school and pre-school children, and during the twelve months 1411 cases received the full course of three inoculations. This represents only a small percentage of the child population in Bromsgrove (approximately 25-30%). Experience in other towns at home and abroad shows that if over 60% of the pre-school children can be consistently protected against the disease the incidence of diphtheria can be reduced, and in places where numbers approximating 100 per cent have been reached, the disease has become non-existent. As pointed out in my last report, it is very necessary to have treatment *in the absence of diphtheria* and not when the epidemic is with us, for treatment at this stage may be too late.

During the year the number of children injected was as follows :

Under 5 years (pre-school children) .... 129

Over 5 years (school children) .... 1282

which were distributed in the schools according to the table given below :—

St. Peter's R.C. School	....	....	....	58
Watt Close Senior	....	....	....	143
Bromsgrove C. of E.	....	....	....	99
Finstall	....	....	....	76
County High	....	....	....	92
Stourbridge Road Junior Boys'	....	....	....	126
,,      ,,      Girls'	....	....	....	88
,,      ,,      Infants'	....	....	....	63
Lickey End	....	....	....	65
Sidemoor Infants'	....	....	....	20
Catshill	....	....	....	127
Linthurst	....	....	....	22
Lickey C. of E.	....	....	....	45
Rubery, St. Chad's Infants'	....	....	....	107
Rubery, Waseley Hills	....	....	....	151
				—
Total	....	....	....	1282
				—

Burroughs Wellcome Toxoid Antitoxin Mixture, 1 c.c. by three fortnightly injections, was used. Of the protected cases only one developed diphtheria after the injections had been given, and in this case sufficient time had not elapsed after the final dose had been given for full protection to take effect.

### Scarlet Fever.

Fifty-three cases of scarlet fever were notified, as compared with 23 in 1937. This was most prevalent during the last quarter of the year, when more than half the cases occurred. The average length of stay in hospital was six weeks, and there were no deaths. Five cases were nursed at home. The disease was mild in type, as has generally been the case in recent years, and it is probable, therefore, that many cases went unrecognised. In this way the disease is easily spread by the unrecognised "carrier." It is the opinion of others, and it is my opinion, that in many cases scarlet fever of a mild type can be treated at home with safety, provided the home conditions are such that isolation can be carried out. There are special cases, of course, which must be nursed in hospital, e.g. cases arising on premises where milk is handled.

The incidence during the year was as follows :—

January	3	July	...	1
February	0	August	...	5
March	.. 3	September	..	5
April	.. 1	October	..	8
May	.. 1	November	..	9
June	.. 1	December	..	16
			Total	.. 53

The cases occurred in the following age groups :—

Under 5 years	13 cases.
5 to 10 ..	23 ..
10 to 15 ..	12 ..
Over 15 ..	5 ..
	—
	53
	—

### Measles.

No action has been taken in regard to the use of measles serum for prophylaxis.

The Isolation Hospital Board are unable at present to treat any cases of measles, or whooping cough, owing to limited accommodation. It would be a wise procedure to admit, if possible, selected cases suffering from these diseases when the new hospital extensions are completed. The mortality from measles and whooping cough and their complications is, unfortunately, more serious than is generally recognised.

I am kept well informed of cases of non-notifiable infectious diseases occurring amongst school children. In this way it is possible to take steps with regard to exclusion and school closure. The information thus obtained from school teachers is also useful for statistical purposes.

### Pneumonia.

Thirteen cases of pneumonia were notified, but none of these presented any unusual features.

### Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.

One case of this disease was reported.

## Catarrhal Jaundice.

There was an epidemic of Catarrhal Jaundice in the District during the later months of the year. This disease, occurring at all ages, was most prevalent amongst school children and was responsible for 31 cases. It is only during recent years that jaundice occurring in epidemic form has been described, and for this reason I took steps to obtain full information concerning each case.

There were severe and mild types. In most cases the onset was gradual, the child complaining of headache, loss of appetite and showing signs of fever; vomiting, often severe and intractable, occurred in all cases, and was generally accompanied by diarrhoea.

Jaundice appeared a few days after the acute symptoms had subsided, and varied in extent from a partial to a complete involvement of the body. The usual symptoms and signs of an obstructive jaundice then became evident. In a few cases very little was noticed before the jaundice appeared.

The average period of absence from school was 24 days, and there were no fatalities.

The table below shews the age and sex incidence:—

Age.	Male.	Female.	Total.
4	2	1	3
5	1	1	2
6	2	1	3
7	3	6	9
8	2	3	5
9	4	1	5
10	2	1	3
11	1	—	1
Totals	17	14	31

from which it will be seen that both sexes are more or less equally affected, and that 7 is the age at which most cases occur. In 3 instances 2 cases in one family were affected, and here it may be assumed that the second case contracted the disease from the first.

The intervals between the onset of symptoms in the first and second cases occurring in the families were 39, 37 and 44 days. In an investigation made simultaneously in Redditch there were 10 instances of 2 members of a family being affected, and the interval here ranged from 20—57 days, average 36 days.

My conclusions are:—

- (1) That the disease is mildly infectious in nature.
- (2) There are variations in type shewing all gradations from the severe to the mild.
- (3) The incubation period is usually 5 weeks, but may vary from 3—8 weeks.

## Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1938.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox .....	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever .....	53	48	0
Diphtheria .....	104	102	1
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) .....	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	3	3	0
Pneumonia .....	13	1	1
Erysipelas .....	11	2	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .....	2	2	0
Cerebro-spinal Fever .....	1	0	1

### **Ophthalmia Neonatorum.**

Two cases of this disease occurred during the year, neither of which resulted in any permanent injury to the eyes.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

### New Cases and Mortality during 1938.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 "	—	1	1	4	—	—	—	—
15—25 "	—	3	—	2	—	—	1	—
25—35 "	3	7	—	—	2	—	—	—
35—45 "	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
45—55 "	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—
55—65 "	4	3	—	—	2	1	—	—
Over 65 yrs.	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	9	16	1	7	4	4	1	—

Of the nine deaths from tuberculosis, three were non-notified cases, which gives a proportion of  $33\frac{1}{3}$  per cent of the total Tuberculosis deaths.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. B. FOLLOWS,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

# THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1938.

To THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS of THE BROMSGROVE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for the year 1938.

## Complaints.

One hundred and twenty-five complaints have been received during the year.

## Inspections.

The following is a list of inspections and re-inspections carried out :—

		Primary Inspections.	Re- inspections.
Houses under Public Health Acts	..	169	309
Overcrowding	...	63	125
Water Supply	...	131	266
Tents, vans and sheds	...	4	8
Schools	...	2	0
Ashes Accommodation	...	996	885
Accumulations	...	19	28
Animals or Birds	..	3	1
Yards, Courts, etc.	..	1	3
Piggeries	..	4	9
Drainage Inspections	..	127	415
Drainage Tests	..	18	3
Water-closets and Slop-closets	..	46	123
Pail-closets or Privies	..	13	26
Cesspools	..	78	56
Cowsheds	..	18	27
Milkshops and Dairies	..	44	23
Slaughter-houses for meat inspection	..	1171	6
Food-preparing Premises	..	9	3
General Food Premises	..	22	0
Factories	..	1	1
Bakehouses (with mechanical power)	..	2	13
Bakehouses (without „ „ )	..	1	0
Shops	..	50	47
Rats and Mice Acts	..	4	3

Verminous Premises	....	....	....	80	11
Infectious Diseases	....	....	....	154	70
Houses under Sec. 9, Housing Act	....	....	....	62	336
Houses „ „ 11, „ „	....	....	....	19	40
Houses „ „ 25, „ „	....	....	....	—	214
Houses (other visits)	....	....	....	52	0
Smoke—Premises visited	....	....	....	3	0
Cleansing	....	....	....	1	0
Petroleum Act	....	....	....	11	2
Miscellaneous visits	....	....	....	62	3
<b>Totals</b>	<b>....</b>	<b>....</b>	<b>....</b>	<b>3440</b>	<b>3056</b>

## Housing.

Fifteen houses were represented by the Medical Officer of Health and myself under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936. Undertakings were accepted by the Committee to make the houses in all respects fit for habitation in five cases, viz.: four houses at Bewell Head and one house, Pear Tree Cottage, Blackwell. The undertakings have been carried out by the owners satisfactorily.

Sixteen Clearance Orders were made in April, 1938, involving 103 houses and five Compulsory Purchase Orders involving 52 houses. The work of the Department was seriously taxed during the following months in the preparation of evidence for the Inquiry which was held in August. The Minister of Health's decision respecting these Orders was received in December, and the following properties were excluded from the Orders:—

### *Strand (No. 2) Clearance Order.*

Three shops and void dwelling-houses at 21, 22 & 23, Strand. Excluded from the Clearance Area.

### *Parlside (No. 1) Clearance Order.*

Office and void dwelling-house at No. 9, Stourbridge Street. Excluded from the Clearance Area.

### *Hanover Street and St. John Street (No. 1) Clearance Area Compulsory Purchase Order.*

House, shop and outbuildings at No. 26, St. John Street. Excluded from the Clearance Area, but may be purchased by the Council.

Sixty-two houses were inspected under Section 9 (the repairs section) of the Housing Act, and informal notices were served respecting each of them. It was found necessary to serve statutory notices in respect of three houses. The number of houses rendered fit under this Section was 56.

## Meat and Food Inspection.

One thousand one hundred and seventy-one visits were made to slaughter-houses for the inspection of meat under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations. Regular notices were received from the majority of the butchers in the early part of the year, and 171 irregular notices of slaughter were received. The total number of animals inspected was 611 cattle, 812 pigs, 2176 sheep, and 68 calves, and the total weight of meat surrendered owing to its unfitness for the food of man was 1 ton, 13 cwt. 1 qr. 8 lbs.

The quality of animals killed for human consumption is excellent, generally speaking only first-class animals being slaughtered. Early in the year the Butchers' Association had a meeting which I attended, and at which it was decided to form a Mutual Insurance Scheme to insure against the loss by condemnation of carcases and part carcases. Several butchers joined the Scheme, and I am happy to record that it has worked very amicably during the year.

The following table sets out the diseases and conditions found in carcases, part carcases and offals condemned and surrendered :—

Disease.	Type of Animal.						Total. lbs.
	Heif- ers. lbs.	Bul- locks. lbs.	Cows. lbs.	Pigs. lbs.	Sheep. lbs.	Calves lbs.	
Tuberculosis ...	1420	531 $\frac{1}{2}$	188	450	—	—	2589 $\frac{1}{2}$
Distomatosis ...	151	20	26	—	—	—	197
Cirrhosis ...	—	—	—	12	—	—	12
Dropsy ...	—	—	—	85	—	60	145
Congestion ...	—	—	—	7	—	—	7
Pleurisy ...	—	—	—	8	—	—	8
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	16	—	—	16
Fevered condition	—	—	—	246	—	—	246
Abscesses ...	15	66	30	—	—	—	111
Tumours ...	—	15	—	—	—	—	15
Bruising ...	—	125 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	84	—	—	209 $\frac{1}{2}$
Moribund condition	—	—	—	—	80	—	80
Echinococcus cysts	31	31	—	10	—	—	72
Parasitical cysts ...	15	—	5	1	3	—	24
Totals for all diseases	1632	789	249	919	83	60	3732
Totals for all diseases except tuberculosis ...	212	257 $\frac{1}{2}$	61	469	83	60	1142 $\frac{1}{2}$

Approximately 69 per cent of the meat condemned was affected with tuberculosis.

Diseased meat is disposed of by burials at the sewage works (by arrangement with the Sewage Works Manager). When whole carcases are condemned, arrangements are made with a reliable firm of fertiliser manufacturers to collect them, and the carcases are used in the manufacture of products not intended for the food of man. Supervision is exercised by the Sanitary Inspector in whose District the works are situated.

Twenty-nine licences were issued to slaughter-men under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933. It was found necessary to institute proceedings against a slaughter-man for killing a pig without previously stunning the animal, and a fine of £1 was inflicted.

Some of the slaughter-houses are not of good standard, and it will probably be necessary for the Council to consider taking action in certain cases under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, when this Act comes into operation towards the end of 1939.

Eight rabbits were surrendered by a stall-holder at the Market owing to decomposition.

Inspections have been made from time to time of butchers' shops in the town receiving meat from outside districts.

### **Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928.**

Towards the end of the year I was appointed by the County Council as a Food and Drugs Inspector and authorised to take samples in the District and submit them to the County Analyst for analysis. Four samples of milk were taken by me and submitted, all of which were reported as genuine.

### **Milk.**

Twelve samples of Accredited Milk and seven samples of Tuberculin Tested Milk were taken for bacteriological examination on behalf of the County Council. One sample failed to satisfy the requirements of the Milk (Special Designations) Order, and along with the County Sanitary Inspector I visited the farm.

Twenty samples of ordinary milk were submitted for bacteriological examination, and where high bacterial counts were reported, letters were sent to the farmers informing them of the unsatisfactory results and requesting them to take steps to improve their methods. Visits were also made to certain farms and advice given in methods of production to ensure a clean milk supply.

Improvements in structure have been achieved at one dairy, a new dairy and washing-up room being provided.

### **Water Supplies.**

A number of houses in districts where water mains are available were found to be served with wells, etc.

Forty-three samples of water were submitted to the County Analyst for chemical and bacteriological examination, with the

result that six samples were found to be fit for drinking, 13 were reported as suspicious or derived from a polluted source, and 24 were returned as unfit for drinking. The number of houses served by these wells was 114.

Water supplies from the Company's mains were laid on to 84 houses as a result of informal action taken, owing to unfitness of water or deficiency of supplies.

It is not easy to convince persons of the unfitness of well waters, especially the older inhabitants, who usually state that they have "been drinking the water for 30 years or more without any ill-effects."

### Ashes Accommodation.

An extensive survey of houses in the District was carried out during the year to ascertain the method of storage of refuse. A large number of houses were found to be without ashbins, and 427 houses were provided with ashbins and 35 ashpits were abolished. All of these were provided after the service of informal notices or letters.

### Closet Accommodation.

A number of the older houses are still provided with privies. As these houses will be considered under the Clearance Area provisions of the Housing Act at a later date, no steps have been taken to convert them to modern closets.

Forty-seven water-closets have been provided with mechanical flushing facilities.

Eleven additional water-closets have been provided.

### Sanitary Improvements.

The following table records sanitary improvements effected during the year:—

Additional w.c.'s provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Privies or pails converted to modern w.c.'s	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Slop closets converted to w.c.'s with fresh water flush	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Mechanical flushing facilities provided to closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Defective w.c.'s remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
New drainage provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
Cesspools abolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Drains trapped, ventilated and repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Obstructed drains dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
House-drains tested	...	...	...	...	...	...	70
Insanitary lavatories, sinks and urinals rectified	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
Ashbins provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	427
Ashpits abolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Well cleansed and repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Polluted wells disused for domestic purposes	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
No. of houses with contaminated or deficient water supplies dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	...	84
Verminous houses dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	...	12

## Notices Served and Complied With.

Description of Notice.	Served.		Complied with.	
	Informal.	Formal.	Informal.	Formal.
Public Health Acts .....	424	2	340	1
Housing Act .....	62	3	56	0
Factories Act .....	2	0	2	0
Shops Acts .....	18	0	21	0
Milk & Dairies Order	5	0	1	0

## Shops Act.

A total of 97 visits were made under the Shops Acts, 1912-1936, and 11 letters were sent to shopkeepers who had failed to display the required notices. The following work was carried out under the Shops Act, 1934, as a result of informal action:—

Heating facilities provided to 7 shops.

Washing facilities provided to 2 shops.

Sanitary accommodation provided to 1 shop.

Sanitary accommodation improved at 1 shop.

## Petroleum Acts.

Fifty-five licences were in force in 1938, 51 of which were for the storage of petroleum spirit and four for the storage of carbide of calcium. Four of these petroleum licences were new ones granted during the year.

The total quantity of petroleum spirit licensed to be stored was 114,344 gallons, and of carbide of calcium 4000 lbs.

I should like to express my thanks to the staff for their loyalty and help, and to the Committee for their co-operation.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. HOLDEN,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.







